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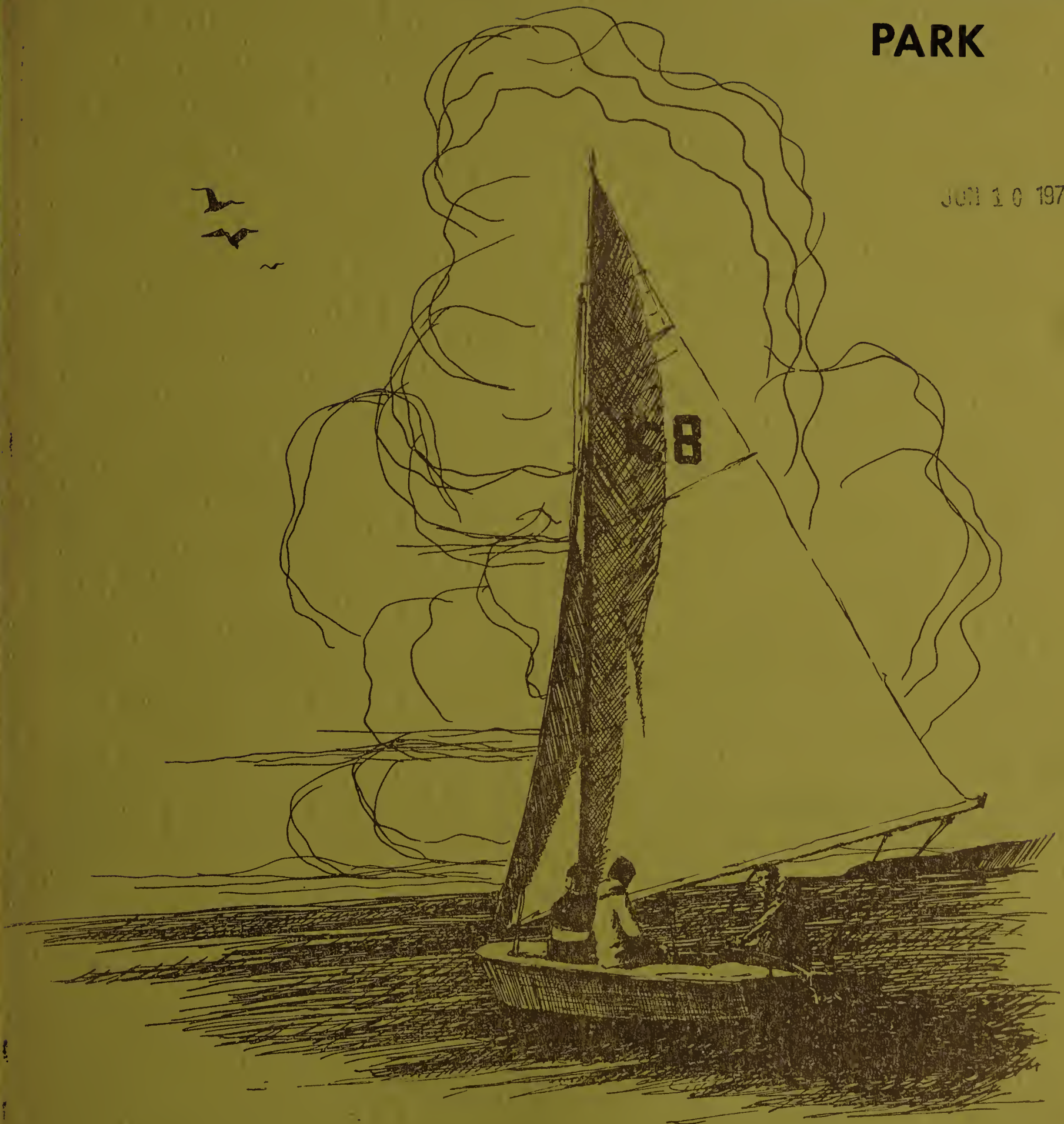
MASTER
PLAN

STATE DOCUMENTS

for

ELMO STATE
PARK

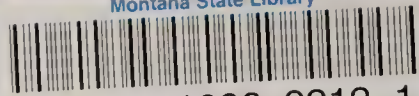
JUL 10 1976



RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION

MONTANA FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

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AREA MASTER PLAN
Elmo State Park
Lake County, Montana

for
Recreation and Park Division
Montana Fish and Game Department

By
Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc.
Great Falls, Montana

DESCRIPTION

Elmo State Park is located on the shores of Flathead Lake overlooking Big Arm Bay. The town of Elmo lies approximately 1.5 miles southeast on Highway 95. The largest town in the surrounding area is Polson, approximately 19 miles south at the southern extreme of Flathead Lake.

The site is composed of open grassland and slopes gently to the lake shore. Private homes are maintained to the east and west of the area. Although some of these are in good repair, the majority of them are in poor condition and constitute unsightly scars upon the scenic landscape. The open character of the site is further disrupted by two sets of aerial transmission lines and poles which traverse the area parallel to Highway 95. Knotty and windblown juniper trees are abundant in the southeast portion of the tract and to some extent are scattered along the lake front. Approximately midway between the highway bounding the north and the lake shore a small lineal mound passes through the area from east to west. This is the backfill over a local water supply system which services the Elmo area. A large rock sits in the open east-central portion of the site and provides an interesting feature of the landscape. Because of the open character of the site and its rather limited size the area is perhaps best suited as a day-use area. However, the pressures for camping are acute adjacent the Flathead Lake and the distance to population centers from the area insure a greater demand for overnight facilities than day-use facilities.



THE PLAN

The principal users of Elmo State Park will be activity oriented recreationists and to a large extent the park will be used for convenient travel camp for tourists enroute to final destination points such as Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. A variety of opportunities are offered to the potential recreation user. These include picnicking, camping, fishing, boating and swimming. These elements and facilities are located and integrated in such a manner to effectively utilize the landscape character. The following information has to do with the provision of facilities.

The improvements to be undertaken for development of the park are listed in the following order:

- A. Site Preparation
- B. Water Supply and Sanitation
- C. Buildings
- D. Miscellaneous

This order reflects the approximate sequence of events as they should be undertaken to realize the ultimate plan.

Group A - Site Preparation. Individual work items under this heading include the following:

1. Earthwork and Grading
2. Roads and Parking

3. Beach Development

4. Planting and Landscaping

Each of these items are discussed in more detail in the following paragraphs.

1. Earthwork and Grading.

Although most of the park will be left in its natural state, it will be necessary to undertake a considerable amount of earthwork in the area of the proposed travel camp. It is recommended that two levels be established to minimize the cuts and fills. This will also provide vertical separation by creating an upper and lower level within the travel camp. Additional grading and leveling should be completed in and around the following sites: (a) change house and beach; (b) picnic parking area; (c) toilet facilities; and (d) boat ramp. Facilities in these areas will conform to the general topography, so excessive earthwork and establishment of a constant grade will not be required.

2. Roads and Parking.

The entire interior road system shall be established at this time with at least rough grade. The design grade will follow the existing ground grade where possible. It is expected that deviation from the ground grade may be necessary in the trailer area to provide a level surface of at least 35 feet in length for parking individual camper units.

The initial traveling surface will be 20 feet wide with 4 inches of gravel, the campground roads will be 12 foot one-way roads. It is

recommended that all roads would eventually be paved and curbed with asphaltic concrete. Central parking areas are provided for the activities of picnicking, swimming and boating. Road pioneering will probably occur along the south side of the picnic road. It is suggested that vehicle traffic barriers be established around the designated parking areas and along the road at points of probable departure.

3. Beach Development.

Initial site preparation at the beach will include grading and clearing. It is expected that this facility will be utilized by both picnickers and campers. Presently the underwater surface is of rock and gravel; although adequate, a sand bottom would be highly desirable. The above-water portion of the bathing beach should be a combination of sand and turf. A strip of sand varying from 30 to 50 feet wide adjacent to the lake will form a transition zone from the turf sun beach and the lake. A physical barrier, a low concrete or stone wall is recommended between the sand and turf areas. In this case, the half moon sand portion of the beach might be 12 to 18 inches lower than the surrounding turf area with a concrete retaining wall separating the two areas. If this transition is natural the sand will eventually incroach upon the turf and weaken its growth. A zone of sparse weed growth and thin sand will be established which will become muddy and difficult to maintain after a rain.

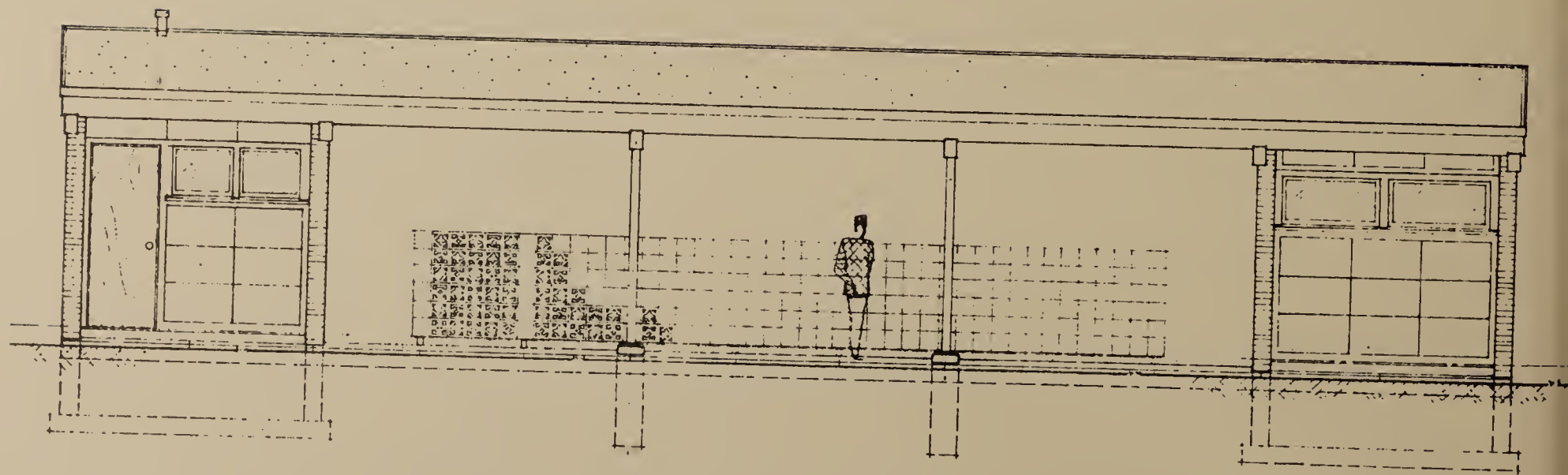
4. Planting and Landscaping.

Planting of shade trees and vegetative screening should be undertaken throughout the site. Particular attention should be given to establishing a living barrier between travel camp and the cottage sites in the southwest portion of the area, and also along the northern boundary of the park area. Views from within the site should be unrestricted towards the lake. Views from the highway into the area should be contained and should focus upon the entrance.

Group B - Water Supply and Sanitation. The construction items included in this grouping include the development of a water distribution system and the construction of toilet facilities.

1. Water Distribution.

It is recommended that the state obtain water from the existing water system installed by the U. S. Public Health Service to serve Indian homes in the area. This source of water supply is contingent upon obtaining an agreement with the owners of the existing water system. This system will provide a pressure of 30 pounds ⁺ per square inch. A two inch pipe, as shown on the plans, is to be extended throughout the trailer camping area. For the picnicking area and camping area, 1 1/2 inch pipes will be extended from the existing main to indicated hydrants. The required quantity of water to be furnished to the entire park will be approximately 12,200 gallons per day. Gravel drain pits should be located around the hydrants to prevent erosion and muddy areas.



2. Sanitary Facilities.

The construction of four standard park toilets will be necessary in the area. Two of these will serve the trailer area and two are so located as to serve both the day-use area and the tent camping area. Eventually a modern comfort station with flush toilets, showers and laundry facilities should be located in the trailer area. A trailer sewage dump is indicated on the plan for self-contained camper-trailer.

Group C - Buildings. It is expected that only one building will be necessary at this site other than the latrines.

1. Change House and Shelter.

It is recommended that a combination change house and shelter be located near the beach for convenience to the swimmers and picnickers. This facility would provide the immediate basic function of a place to change into a swimsuit and shelter for picnickers. However, the initial design should be such that it may be expanded and modernized into a bathhouse with showers and toilets and also incorporate a small concession stand. A schematic drawing of such a facility is presented on the adjacent page.

Group D - Miscellaneous. It is expected that these items will be undertaken either in conjunction with other contract items or by the work force of the division of state parks on an independent schedule.

1. Picnic Facilities.

Picnic tables, fire places and adequate trash receptacles will be dispersed throughout the picnic area.

2. Camping Facilities.

Each individual camping unit will have a picnic table, fire place and garbage can.

3. Signs.

Access to the park will be from State Highway 95, an attractive park entrance sign should be erected at this point. Interior directional and regulatory signs will be erected as needed.

PARK CAPACITY

Elmo State Park, although designated as a state park, does not exemplify the optimum criteria as set forth on page 15 of Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan. For this reason, the design concepts of the area master plan reflect a development which may be more suited to land classified as a state recreation area. The area is relatively small, yet must serve ever increasing recreational demands. Therefore, the density or units per acre standards are higher than those suggested by the Montana Outdoor Recreation Plan. This is not expected to result in lower quality, provided intensive management practices are maintained.

Picnicking Capacity and Quantity Needs

25 Tables

12 Fireplaces and Grills

12 Trash Cans

2 Double unit Toilets

25 Parking Units

Estimated capacity 25 units @ 4 persons/unit = 100 persons

Tent Camping Area

20 Family Units

1 Parking Spur/Family Unit

1 Table, 1 fireplace, 1 trash can/Family Unit

Estimated Capacity 20 Units @ 3 per unit = 60 persons

Vehicle Camping

38 Family Units

1 Parking Space per Unit

1 Table, 1 fireplace, 1 trash can/family unit

2 Double unit toilets

1 Sewage waste station

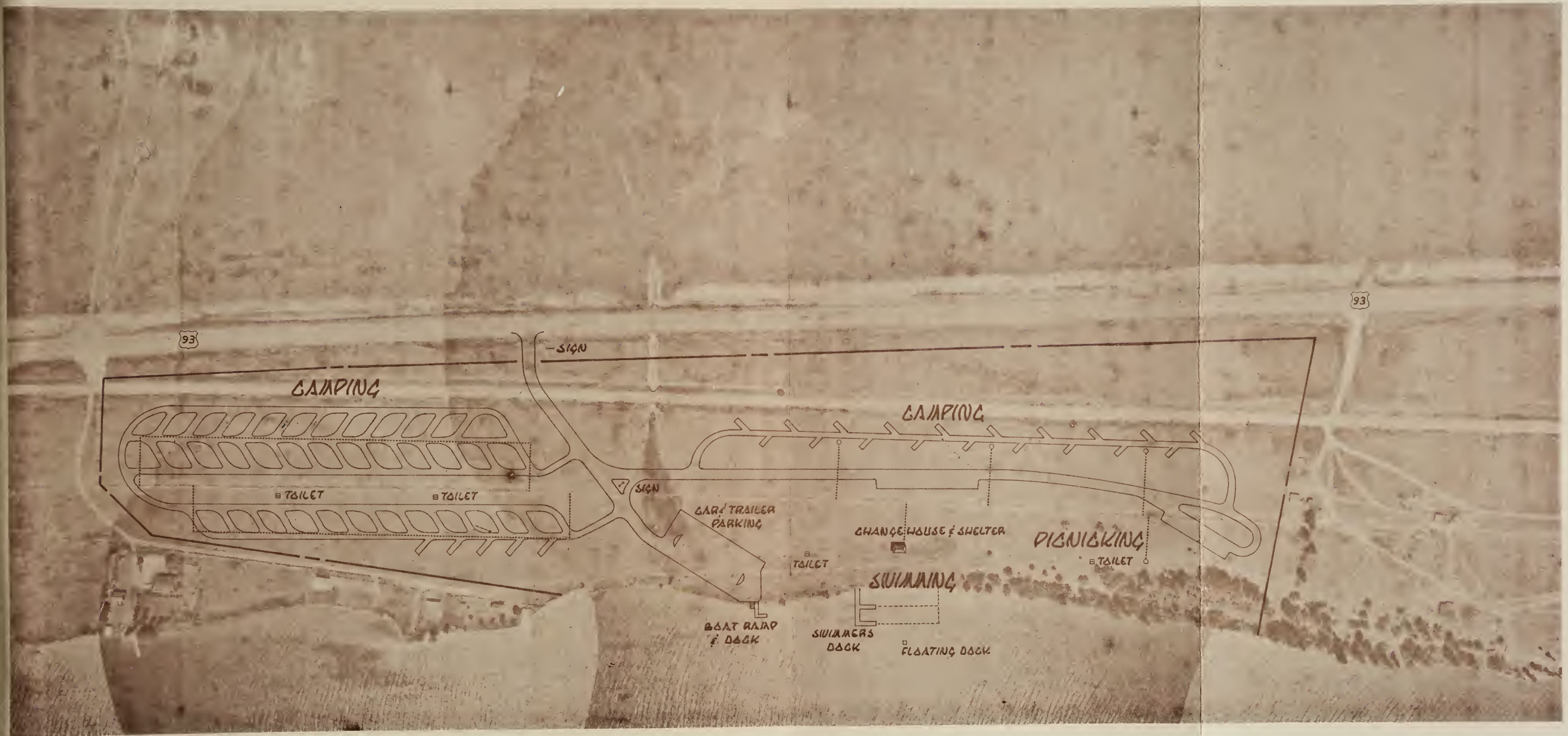
Estimated Capacity 38 units @ 3 per unit = 114 persons



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